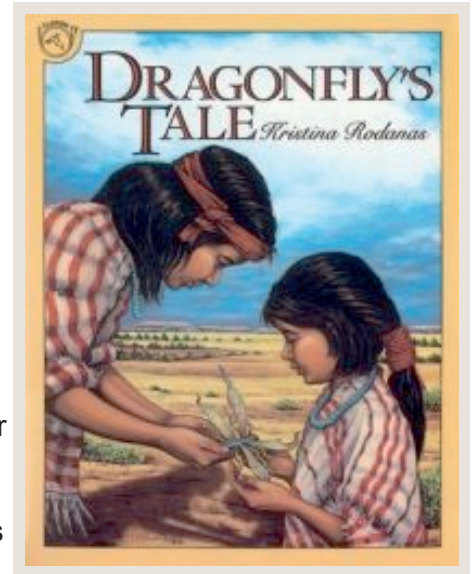




Title: Dragonfly's Tale
Author: Retold by Kristina Rodanas
Genre: Picture Book (folklore)
Cultural Connection: Feasting, Being Respectful



PLOT SUMMARY

Long ago the two Corn Maidens watched over the village of Hawikuh. The corn plants grew strong and each year the storerooms overflowed with corn. One day, as the chief watched a group of children engaged in a mud fight, he devised a plan to show off the wealth of the village. He invited their neighbours to take part in a mock battle using bread, batter and dough as weapons. The Corn Maidens, disguised as ragged old women, wandered through the village and observed mounds of food piled everywhere. Just as two children offered them something to eat, a village elder snatched the food away and accused the women of being lazy. The Corn Maidens watched with heavy hearts as the Ashiwi people hurled food around the plaza. They withdrew their blessings. The next corn crop withered. Once the storerooms were emptied out famine came to the village. The people left to seek help from their neighbours. The two children were left behind. The boy fashioned a small creature from a cornstalk to entertain his sister. It hummed and flew out of the house. It made its way south to the Land of Everlasting Summer. Finally it found the Corn Maidens. When they heard the creature's story they sent food to the two children who had once tried to help them. The children survived the winter and in the spring planted corn seed in the fields. The crop thrived. When the villagers returned they realized that the children had been blessed. They no longer took the Corn Maidens' gift for granted. The cornstalk creature became known as the dragonfly.

LEARNING INTENTION

Focus Reading Connection: #4 Predicting

Readers predict when they use their prior knowledge, as well as all of the information that they have gathered from the text and illustrations, to come up with a guess about what the story will be about. When talking to students about predicting it is important to emphasize that:

1. There is no right or wrong answer.
2. There are many clues in the text and in the pictures.
3. Their prediction might stay the same, or it might change, when new information is added to their prior knowledge.
4. Predicting is something that good readers do before they start reading the story.
5. Readers continue to predict while they are engaged in reading the story.

This lesson uses structured partner talk as a learning strategy. To learn more about partner talk please refer to the Educator's page on our website.

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- 1 copy of Dragonfly's Tale
- 1 word card for each student (or 1 copy of the word card sheet for each)
- 1 copy of the prediction sheet per student



BEFORE

- Read the story in preparation for the lesson. Place sticky notes in the places where you will want to pause and check on the students' predictions.
- Print the provided words and phrases on cards (one for each student).
- Put six strips of masking tape on the chalkboard (sticky side out).
- Explain to the class what a prediction is (using prior knowledge plus the clues in the book to make a smart guess as to what the book is about-or what will happen next.)
- Explain that there is no right or wrong answer when you are making a prediction.
- Explain that you might want to alter your prediction after you gather new information or find new clues in the story.
- Explain that today they are going to make a prediction by using words and phrases from the story as clues.

DURING

- Distribute one card per student.
- Ask each student to read their own word, or phrase, to a partner and to seek clarification for meaning and pronunciation of any unknown words.
- Have one student start by placing his/her word card on a strip of masking tape.
- Ask each student to look at their own card to see if it will link to the first one.
- If a student has a word, or phrase, that links have him/her read the word out loud and state the justification for placing it in the same category as the first one *"I think that....because"*.
- If no one has a connection to the first word then start a new category.
- Continue this process until each student has placed their card. If a student is unable to place their card allow him/her to ask the class for two pieces of advice to help make the decision.
- Have each student talk to the same partner and make a prediction about the story.
- Have each student draw and label what they think the story might be about.
- Have each student share their prediction with the same partner.
- Have several students share their predictions with the whole group.
- Give the students a few more minutes to add to/change their pictures and to record the prediction on the lines beneath the picture.
- NOTE: Students could also use the word list to do the sort on their desk tops.

AFTER

Read the story to the class. Stop at the places where you put the sticky notes to check on the students' predictions. Ask them if they might want to change their predictions in any way. Why? When you have finished reading ask the students to compare their predictions to the author's thinking.

Suggested Supplemental Resources:

Click on the Kids tab of our website to find similar stories, such as:

- Lessons from Mother Earth by Elaine McLeod
- Maple Moon by Connie Brummel Crook



Date: _____

Name: _____

Dragonfly's Tale: Prediction

My prediction is:



Ashiwi	Hawikuh	corn
village	harvest	bread
dough	celebrate	guests
cooking	cakes	teams
precious	abundance	famine
rain	soil	hot
withered	insect	Corn Maidens
weak	kindness	powerful
gifts	respect	corn tassel